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**Making sense of the world**



# THE WEEK

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

## CONTROVERSY AT THE COURT

People protest as the Supreme Court hears two cases about student loans **p4**

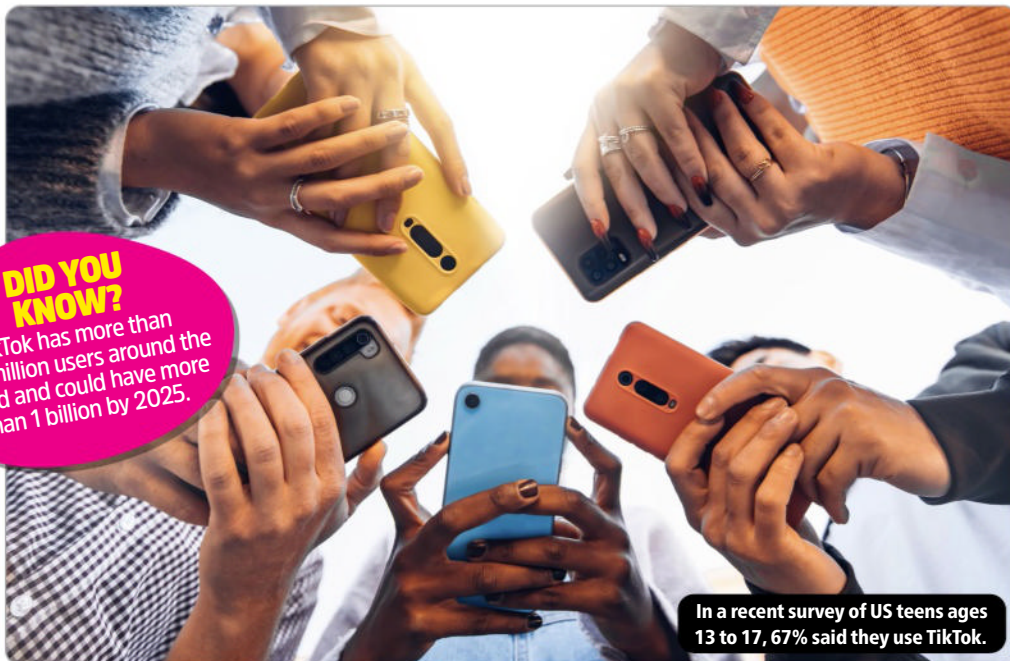
### DID YOU KNOW?

- A student loan is money borrowed to help pay for college.
- There is disagreement about whether student loan debt can be canceled.
- More than 40 million people who took out loans are affected.





# This week's big news

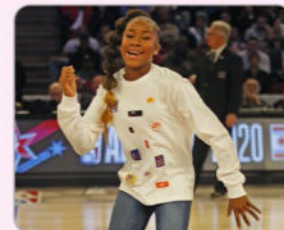


## DID YOU KNOW?

TikTok has more than 834 million users around the world and could have more than 1 billion by 2025.

In a recent survey of US teens ages 13 to 17, 67% said they use TikTok.

## A TikTok pioneer



Jalaiah Harmon was 14 years old when she invented the Renegade, a dance that became a viral sensation on TikTok in 2019. Although she was not given credit at first, she was later identified as the Renegade's creator and now has 3 million followers on TikTok. She still posts original choreography to the platform.

# TikTok comes under scrutiny

The US government is joining other nations in restricting access to TikTok because of concerns over security. More than 100 million Americans currently use the video app. TikTok, which is run by a Chinese company called ByteDance, is also taking steps to limit use by young people, citing concerns over screen time and health.

## What is happening?

On February 27, US President Joe Biden said all federal agencies must delete the app from government devices within 30 days. Two days later, a committee in the House of Representatives (one half of Congress, which makes laws) approved a bill that would give Biden the authority to ban TikTok entirely in the US. When *The Week Junior* went to press, the Senate (other half of Congress) was set to announce a similar bill. The bills would still need to be approved by both parts of Congress and signed by Biden. In recent months, more than half of US states have banned TikTok on government devices, and many colleges prohibit its use on campus wifi. Governments in Canada and the European Union (EU, a group of 27 nations) have also ordered the removal of the app from official devices. India banned it completely in 2020.



## Why is the US government involved?

US officials said they are worried that TikTok and ByteDance are providing sensitive information to the Chinese government. Such data might include details about users in the US, including location information. Laws in China allow the government to order Chinese companies and citizens to hand over user data in order to gather intelligence (strategic information) about other countries. US government officials are also concerned that the Chinese government could use the app to spread false information to Americans.

## How are young people affected?

On March 2, TikTok said it would limit access to 60 minutes a day for people under 18 and strengthen parental controls. Experts have expressed concern that young people can become addicted to TikTok, which can lead to physical problems such as poor sleep and mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. "We recognize that teens typically require extra support as they start to explore the online world independently," Cormac Keenan, head of trust and safety at TikTok, said in a statement. There are ways to bypass the limits, however. If young people reach the one-hour limit, they can enter a

passcode to continue using the app that day. They can also disable the time limit, but if they do so and spend more than 100 minutes per day on TikTok, the app will prompt them to set a new limit.

## How have people reacted?

Some legal experts said concerns about TikTok misusing data are overblown and that TikTok's data collection is similar to the way other social media apps collect it. Meanwhile, many young people welcomed the limits on usage. "There are too many people who spend too much time on it, and it's very bad for your mental health and self-image," Nalani LasMarias, a high school junior in Virginia, told TV station WTKR. Others said the time limit would have little impact because there are ways around it. "People who want to use it will find those ways," said Grace Robinson, a college junior. Many parents questioned whether the limit would matter because of the opt-out feature.

## What will happen next?

US government restrictions on the app will begin to take effect at the end of March, and the 60-minute limit will go into effect within weeks, TikTok said. It is unclear if Congress will pursue a nationwide TikTok ban, which some legal experts said would be difficult to implement and possibly not permitted under the US Constitution.





## US ambassador to lead World Food Program

US Ambassador Cindy McCain has been appointed executive director of the World Food Program (WFP), the largest global organization working to eliminate hunger. WFP is run by the United Nations (UN, a group of 193 nations working for peace and cooperation). McCain, currently the ambassador to the UN Agencies for Food and Agriculture, begins her new job on April 4.

WFP, founded in 1961 and based in Rome, Italy, provides food to millions of people facing natural disasters and conflict in more than 120 countries and territories. This includes people in Ukraine, which is at war with Russia, and in Turkey and Syria after earthquakes hit those nations last month.

McCain, who is the widow of Senator John McCain, has worked with many international nonprofits and headed up the McCain Institute for International Leadership at Arizona State University. She said she is "deeply honored" by the appointment and looks forward to leading WFP's efforts "to meet the needs of a hungry world."



Cindy McCain



**PLACE IN SPACE**  
The ISS has been continuously occupied by astronauts since November 2000.

Left to right: Andrey Fedyaev, Warren Hoburg, Stephen Bowen, and Sultan Alneyadi

## Historic SpaceX mission launches

On March 2, four astronauts from the US, Russia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched aboard the SpaceX Crew Dragon Endeavour. They docked at the International Space Station (ISS) the next day. The historic flight carried the first person from the UAE to travel to space on a long-duration mission.

SpaceX is a private company that works with NASA (the US space agency) and the space agencies of Canada, Europe, and Japan to carry crews to the ISS. It was the first private company to launch and return a spacecraft from Earth's orbit.

For about six months, members of the Crew-6 mission, as it's called, will conduct science experiments and perform routine maintenance on the ISS. The crew includes

mission commander Stephen Bowen and Warren Hoburg of NASA, Andrey Fedyaev from Russia, and Sultan Alneyadi from the UAE.

The voyage from Earth to the ISS took one day and included a small glitch. Endeavour spent about an hour orbiting about 65 feet from the ISS while engineers on Earth remotely adjusted a faulty sensor to ensure the capsule docked safely. Hoburg called the journey "one heck of a ride!"

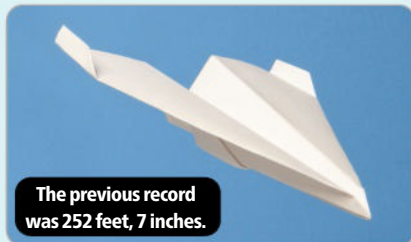
After docking, Crew-6 received a warm welcome from the seven astronauts currently living aboard the ISS. Three of them are NASA astronauts on the Crew-5 mission, including commander Nicole Mann, who was the first Indigenous American woman to go to space. They are set to depart the ISS on March 9 after a 154-day mission.



## IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

### GOING THE DISTANCE

Three aerospace engineers in Indiana set a record for the longest flight by a paper airplane. The friends spent four months perfecting the design of their plane, which flew 289 feet, 9 inches. "It was hard to believe," one of the engineers said.



The previous record was 252 feet, 7 inches.

### A SPARKLING DISCOVERY

Two gold earrings set with semi-precious stones were uncovered in Germany after being buried for about 800 years. The earrings were part of a collection of jewelry and silver coins found at a site called Haithabu. The region was a key trading hub between mainland Europe and Scandinavia during the Viking era (793–1066).



One of the earrings

### COOKING UP KINDNESS

Hall of Fame rock star Dave Grohl spent 24 hours cooking for people who are homeless in Los Angeles, California. The Foo Fighters frontman worked outside in a tent with friends to make 500 meals, including barbecued meat and side dishes, and then served guests at Hope the Mission. "We're all in," he said on social media.



Dave Grohl



## DID YOU KNOW?

In 1963, the average cost of a four-year degree from a public university was \$929.

People demonstrating outside the Supreme Court

## Average cost of college



Since 2000, the cost of earning a college degree has more than doubled, increasing by about 7% every year. According to the group Education Data, it costs an average of \$35,551 to attend a public or private college full-time for one year. This includes tuition, books, supplies, and living expenses.

# Student loan cases argued at Court

On March 1, the US Supreme Court (top court of law) heard arguments in two cases about student loans. Outside the court, demonstrators showed support for President Joe Biden's plan to forgive millions of dollars in student debt.

## What is Biden's proposal?

A student loan is money borrowed, sometimes from the federal government, to pay for college. Many people finish college with so much debt that they spend decades paying it back. In 2022, Biden said he would cancel up to \$20,000 per person in federal student loan debt. The plan would apply to people who earn less than \$125,000 a year, and taxpayer money would cover the cost. About 43 million people would have some debt forgiven, and 20 million would no longer owe anything.

## What happened at the Supreme Court?

The first lawsuit (legal dispute) involves six US states that oppose Biden's plan. They argue that he lacks the authority to forgive debt. The second case was filed by two students who believe they should get more relief. Demonstrators at the court carried signs in support of keeping the plan intact. Patrick Chaton, a student, told *The New York Times* that the cost of college "is something that is going to weigh us down and not let us prosper in life."

## What have officials said?

Leslie Rutledge, who is now the lieutenant governor of Arkansas and was part of the first lawsuit, told the Associated Press last year that it is "unfair to saddle hardworking Americans with the loan debt of those who chose to go

to college." She said the US Department of Education is required by law to collect the debt and Biden doesn't have the power to override that law. Lawmakers in favor of Biden's plan said the government has the authority to modify loans it distributes. Elizabeth Warren, a US senator from Massachusetts, wrote in a report that "denying student debt cancellation would cause financial disaster for millions of Americans."

## What will happen next?

The Supreme Court is expected to issue its decision in the two cases in June. People with federal student loan debt have been allowed to pause their payments until 60 days after the Court issues its ruling. If the cases haven't been resolved by June 30, payments will resume 60 days after that.



## WORD OF THE WEEK

### LOLLIPOP

In the 18th century, children began to enjoy a candy that easily dissolved in the mouth. Later, the candy was attached to a stick. It was given the name "lollypop" based on an old name for the tongue, "lolly." The "pop" was added because people taking the lollipop out of their mouth often make a popping noise with their lips.

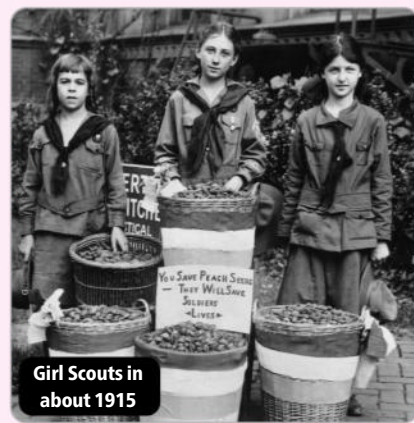


## THE WEEK IN HISTORY

### March 12, 1912

#### Girl Guides is founded

On March 12, 1912, Juliet Gordon Low founded the Girl Guides in Savannah, Georgia, with 18 members. Low wanted girls to be self-sufficient and learn about first aid, camping, and how to stop a runaway horse. At that time, some people thought girls shouldn't learn those skills. The group was renamed the Girl Scouts in 1913. Today, more than 50 million people have been a Girl Scout.



Girl Scouts in about 1915





**Insulin medication**

## Crucial medicine will cost less

Drug company Eli Lilly said it will significantly lower the price of its insulin drugs. Insulin is used to treat diabetes (a condition that results in too much sugar in the blood). The price of the company's most prescribed insulin will drop from \$274.20 to \$66.40. For insured people who use participating pharmacies, the cost will be no more than \$35. President Joe Biden called the decision "a big deal" and said it's time for other drug companies to follow suit.



**Cherry blossoms in Washington, DC**

## Early bloom for cherry blossoms

The 3,700 cherry blossom trees in Washington, DC, are expected to reach peak bloom from March 22–25. This is earlier than usual, due to a warm winter. Experts said the early bloom isn't a problem unless the temperature drops and frost harms the blooms. This year, more than one million people are expected to view the trees, which the mayor of Tokyo, Japan, gave to the US 111 years ago.



**Great Smoky Mountains National Park**

## Most visited US parks revealed

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, in North Carolina and Tennessee, had the most visitors of any US national park in 2022. It had 12.94 million visits, said the National Park Service (US agency that cares for parks and sites). Grand Canyon National Park, in Arizona, came in second with 4.73 million visits, and Zion National Park, in Utah, was third with 4.69 million visits.



# Women's History Month begins in US

March 1 marked the start of Women's History Month. It is a time to remember and pay tribute to the role women have played in shaping the history and culture of the US.

The first Women's History Week was held in Sonoma County, California, in 1978. The week of March 8 was chosen because March 8 is recognized as International Women's Day by the United Nations (group of 193 countries working for peace). Sonoma County's decision inspired women across the US to push for a National Women's History Week, which was declared by President Jimmy Carter in 1980. The US Congress (branch of government that makes laws) officially named March as Women's History Month in 1987.

This year's theme, "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories," honors women who have worked as journalists, songwriters, authors, performers, and other professions. Numerous events will take place throughout

the US to showcase this theme. A theater in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, will show screenings of movies directed by women, for example. The National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, will host concerts performed by female musicians.

Among other events, the University of Alabama held a program in honor of Autherine Lucy Foster, the first Black person to enroll at the college. A new exhibit at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, showcases the fight for women's right to vote. On March 31, the National Women's History Museum in Washington, DC, will hold a Women Making History Awards Gala, honoring women such as civil rights activist Willie Pearl Mackey King.

This month, "we celebrate the pioneers who have shaped our nation," said US Vice President Kamala Harris. It is a time to honor those who break down barriers, she said, and ensure that all women and girls can thrive.



**Vice President Kamala Harris**

## THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

**"Owl evicted after shutting down Georgia college library for days" UPI**







# Around the world



Kaja Kallas

## Tallinn, Estonia Prime minister reelected

Estonia's Prime Minister Kaja Kallas was reelected as the country's leader on March 5. Her Reform party won 37 out of 101 parliament (government) seats. Estonia shares a border with Russia, and Kallas has strongly supported Ukraine in the war between the two countries. Under her leadership, Estonia has pressed larger European countries, like France and Germany, to send military equipment to help Ukraine defend itself.



Havanese bichons

## Cuba Dogs face shampoo shortage

Owners of the dog breed Havanese bichons are struggling to care for them due to a shampoo shortage. Because the small, active dogs have long, silky coats, they need special shampoos to keep them healthy. With the shampoos in short supply, their fur can become knotted, which puts them at risk of catching fleas. Havanese bichons are the only dogs native to Cuba and are considered the country's national breed.



The house of the year

## Belo Horizonte, Brazil Small home receives big honor

A small house in a Brazilian favela has won an international "house of the year" award. Favela is a Brazilian word referring to a neighborhood packed with small, poorly built housing. The house belongs to Kdu dos Anjos, age 32, and was designed with local materials and a goal of allowing plenty of sunlight and fresh air inside. Dos Anjos said, "It's a well-built shack."

## Norway Thunberg fights wind farm

Environmental activist Greta Thunberg joined protesters fighting wind farms in central Norway on March 1. The wind turbines are located on land the Sami people (an Indigenous group) have used to herd reindeer for thousands of years. After the protests, a government leader apologized to the Sami people and promised to find a solution.



Greta Thunberg with protesters



## Nigeria People protest against election results

Bola Ahmed Tinubu was declared the winner of Nigeria's presidential elections on February 28. He won about 37% of the vote, making him the first candidate in nearly 40 years to win the country's presidency with less than half of the total votes. However, thousands of supporters of the second-place candidate, Atiku Abubakar, have protested the results and called for a new vote. Tinubu is scheduled to be sworn into office in May.



Bola Tinubu, center

GETTY IMAGES (5); SHUTTERSTOCK (2); ALAMY; (1) HAVANA INNENKUPA, JUHI BHATT





A trial section of the new fence



## Finland New border fence goes up

Finland is building a 124-mile fence along its border with Russia, after seeing an increase in Russians entering the country to avoid fighting in Ukraine. Much of Finland's 832-mile border with Russia currently has wooden fences. The new fence will stand 10 feet tall with barbed wire on top and have video cameras and lights.



A protest in Tel Aviv



## Tel Aviv, Israel Legal reform draws controversy

On March 4, about 250,000 people took to the streets to protest against the government's plans to change the way Israel's laws are passed. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu aims to limit the powers of Israel's top court. People opposing the changes believe they will give Netanyahu too much power. Israelis have been protesting the planned changes for nine weeks.

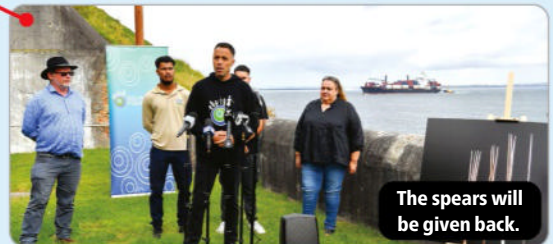


The new center



## United Arab Emirates Multi-faith center opens

A multi-faith center named the Abrahamic Family House has opened in Abu Dhabi. The new center has a goal of bringing people who follow different religions together. It includes a mosque for Muslims, a synagogue for Jewish people, and a church for Christians to worship. Its design features traditional styles from places of worship around the world to highlight similarities between all three religions.



The spears will be given back.



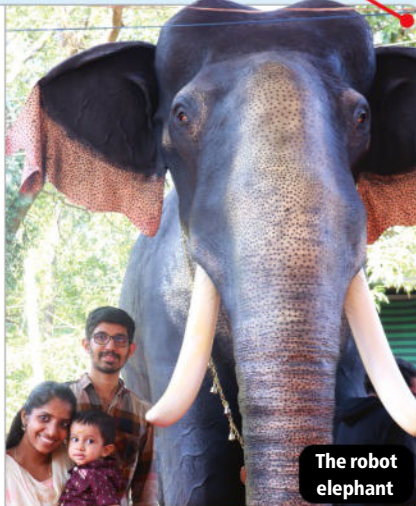
## Sydney, Australia Stolen spears to be returned

Four Aboriginal spears that were taken from Australia in 1770 by Captain James Cook will be returned. The spears were among 40 taken without permission from an Aboriginal (people who have been in Australia from the earliest times) community and shipped to England. After talks, the spears are going back to their traditional owners.



## Kerala, India Robot for rituals

A life-size model of an elephant has been donated to a temple in Kerala for use in ceremonies. Live elephants sometimes take part in rituals in Hindu temples in India. According to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), which donated the model, many elephants are treated poorly. The temple's priest said, "We hope other temples will think about replacing elephants with robotic elephants for their rituals."



The robot elephant



# The big debate

## Is writing by hand better than typing?

Some people think typing is more efficient, but others say that's not all that matters.

### What you need to know

- The earliest form of writing, called Sumerian, can be traced back to about 5,500 years ago.
- In the past, handwriting was a required subject in school and students were graded on the quality of their penmanship.
- Today, most US schools teach keyboard skills but do not have to teach handwriting.
- About 66% of students do homework on a computer or other device and turn in assignments online.



In 1787, a professional “penman” named Jacob Shallus was hired to handwrite the US Constitution using a quill on a piece of parchment paper. Shallus spent about 40 hours working on the document that laid the foundation for our country, and the handwritten result is on display in Washington, DC. If Shallus were doing that job today, however, he would most likely type it on a computer and finish much faster. Many people think that’s a good thing because typing is quick, efficient, and easy to read. But others say writing with a pen and paper is more valuable. What do you think? Is writing by hand better than typing?

### Yes—writing by hand has big payoffs

Sure, writing by hand may take longer than typing, but it has scientific benefits. Research shows that when we use a pen or pencil to write down ideas, we activate parts of the brain that help us learn, remember, and think. Writing by hand lets people show their creativity, whether they’re printing, using cursive, or going all out with calligraphy as Shallus did. No two people have the same handwriting, which makes it a very personal expression of themselves. Writing by hand can also help people focus. It’s easy to get distracted when using a computer, which offers easy access to the internet, games, and apps.

### No—typing is faster and easier

Handwriting may be pretty, but people can get their ideas and thoughts down more quickly when they type. Typing also makes it easy to revise and edit because you can make changes with the click of a few keys. Once something is written by hand, there’s no delete button. If you want to make a change, you have to write it all over again. In addition, many people have motor control issues that make it difficult for them to write by hand. And some people’s handwriting is hard to read. Typing makes everything clear, and no one will have to worry about their words being legible.

YES

### Three reasons why writing by hand is better than typing

- 1 Writing by hand is a brain booster. Using a pen and paper to write helps people learn, remember, and think.
- 2 Handwriting lets people be creative and show their artistic side.
- 3 Writing by hand helps people avoid the distraction of a computer, where the internet is just a click away.

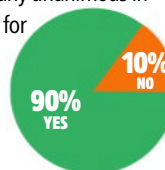
NO

### Three reasons why writing by hand is not better than typing

- 1 Writing by hand is much slower than typing. People can get their ideas down faster and more efficiently with typing.
- 2 Typing lets you edit and revise easily rather than rewriting something.
- 3 People who have messy handwriting or trouble with their motor skills can communicate clearly when they type.

### LAST WEEK’S POLL

Last week, we asked if we should be rewinding more land. You were nearly unanimous in your support for nature: 90% of you said yes, while 10% said no.



### What do you think?

Now that you’ve read a bit more about this issue, visit [kids.theweekjunior.com/polls](https://kids.theweekjunior.com/polls) so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think writing by hand is better than typing or **NO** if you don’t. We’ll publish the results next week.

**The goal of the big debate** is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.





## Seeing history honored

After a decade of advocacy, Raya Kenney's idea became a US law.

This year, 21-year-old college student Raya Kenney was thrilled when a bill inspired by homework she did in elementary school became law. Titled "The Women Who Worked on the Home Front World War II Memorial Act," it advocated for a monument on the National Mall in Washington, DC, in honor of the millions of women who supported the US during World War II (1939–1945).

Kenney grew up in Washington, DC, and now attends Kenyon College in Ohio. One of her fifth-grade assignments was to build a model of a monument for someone who had not yet been recognized. She had just seen the hit 1992 film *A League of Their Own*, based on the first all-female professional baseball league, which formed after many male players left the US to serve in World War II. The film led her to research

the many jobs women filled during this time, and she decided to make her model about them. Her teacher was impressed and told Kenney to try to get it built for real.

"It's been a long process," Kenney told *The Week Junior*. In all, it took 10 years, during which Kenney founded a nonprofit organization to back her bill, got support from lawmakers, and made a presentation to Congress.

When the bill passed, she said she "burst into tears." Planning for the monument is now underway, featuring her original idea for the structure to form the shape of a "V," symbolizing victory.

"Don't be afraid to take big leaps," Kenney advises young advocates. "Even if you don't know what you're doing, if you're really passionate about something, your passion will inspire other people too."



The National Mall in DC



Raya Kenney

## Chef shares stories

Argentinian chef Gaby Melian has written a new kids' cookbook, *Gaby's Latin American Kitchen*. It is based on her childhood memories of learning to make traditional dishes such as empanadas from her grandmother. Melian has worked in the culinary industry for more than 20 years. Her latest cookbook features 70 recipes from Latin America, which, as she told *The Washington Post*, she hopes will inspire young people to learn more about the region. "I put the recipes out there, and then they're yours," she said.



Gaby Melian



Ben Jealous

## A leader's new role

Ben Jealous recently became the first person of color to direct the Sierra Club, a nonprofit environmental group, in its 131-year history. Prior to this role, he led the nation's largest civil rights advocacy group, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), among other positions. Jealous is very passionate about the environment and social justice and fought for both at the NAACP. As executive director of the Sierra Club, he plans to continue its many campaigns to fight climate change as well as make the organization more diverse and inclusive.

## OVERHEARD



"Pursue quality over quantity, and remember that everything is important."

Hip-hop icon Dr. Dre, age 58, in his acceptance speech for the first-ever Global Impact Award at the 2023 Grammy Awards.





# Animals and the environment

## DID YOU KNOW?

Chimpanzees live in "communities" of about 15 to 80 members but spend most of their time in smaller groups.



Adolescence is a challenging time for chimps.

## Teen life of animals

Studies show adolescent animals seek out new experiences even when they are dangerous, such as when "teen" elephants raid farms and risk attacks by farmers. Young mice are influenced by peer pressure, and adolescent dolphins hang out in small "gangs." These behaviors may help the animals stay safer as adults, scientists say.



Dolphins

# Teenage chimps are risk-takers

Human teenagers are known to be impulsive. This means they tend to take risks or act without thinking about the consequences of their behavior. A new study has found that adolescent chimpanzees are also more reckless than adults—but they're still less impulsive than human teens.

During human adolescence, a part of the brain that helps people make cautious choices, called the ventromedial prefrontal cortex, is still in the process of developing. Meanwhile, teens undergo changes in their hormones (chemicals in the body) that may drive them to act more impulsively. Research has

shown that between the ages of 8 and 15, chimpanzees experience similar changes in hormone levels and behavior.

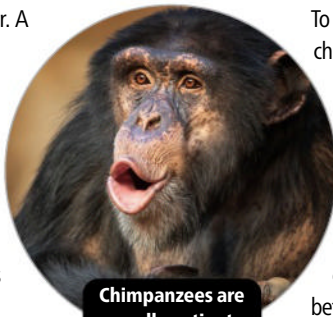
To see how adolescence affects chimps' decisions, a team of researchers tested 40 wild-born chimpanzees at a sanctuary in the Republic of Congo in central Africa. The youngest chimp was 6 and the oldest was 25. In the first test, the chimpanzees had to choose between taking a snack they knew

they liked (peanuts) or opening a mystery container. The mystery container could either have their favorite food (a banana slice) or one they disliked (a cucumber slice) inside.

Adolescent chimps were more likely than adults to take the risk of choosing the mystery container, hoping to get the banana slice but getting upset if they found a cucumber instead.

In another test, the chimps could choose to receive one banana slice right away or wait 60 seconds to get three slices. In situations like this, human teens tend to prefer instant rewards. But adolescent chimps were patient enough to wait for the extra banana slices. They often threw tantrums during the waiting period, though—a sign that they had trouble regulating their emotions.

"Human adolescents are grappling with changing bodies and brains," lead study author Dr. Alexandra Rosati told CNN. "Chimpanzees face many of the same kinds of challenges as humans as they grow up."

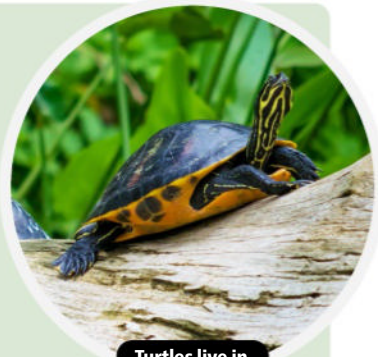


Chimpanzees are usually patient.

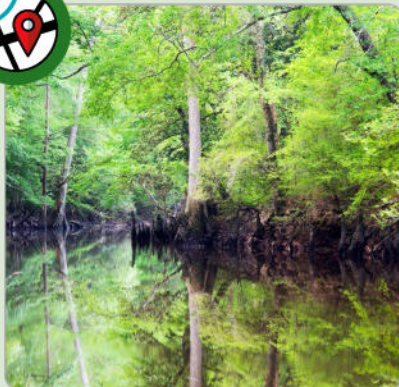
## PLACE OF THE WEEK

Kisatchie National Forest, Louisiana

Louisiana's only national forest spreads across 604,000 acres in the north-central part of the state. It has about 100 miles of trails where visitors can explore the impressive pine trees. One tree, "The Statesman," is estimated to be more than 200 years old. The forest attracts migratory birds in the spring and fall, and the Latt Lake Observation Pier is an excellent place to spot them. Meanwhile, butterfly lovers can visit the Catahoula Hummingbird and Butterfly Garden. The wilderness also supports armadillos, turtles, Louisiana black bears, and herds of horses.



Turtles live in the forest.







## FISH FACT

Cleaner fish got their name because they help keep other fish clean by removing dead skin and parasites.



Two cleaner wrasses clean a parrotfish.

## Fish can recognize their own faces

Fish aren't known for being brainy, but a new study reveals that some fish can recognize their own faces in photos and mirrors. This self-awareness is usually found in animals with larger brains, like humans and elephants.

Scientists in Japan put bluestreak cleaner wrasses to the test. The researchers first showed a mirror to 26 cleaner fish. They then secretly injected dye into the scales of 10 fish before showing them the mirror again. If an animal tries to touch or remove the mark, that means it has

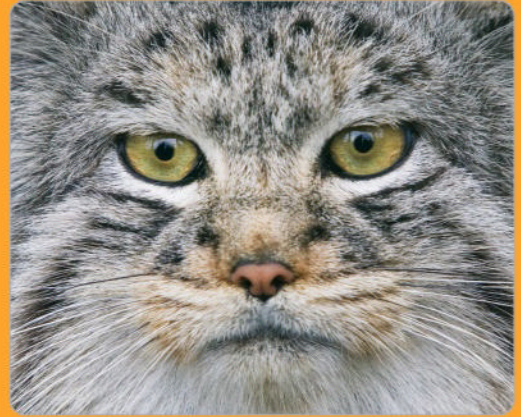
recognized its own reflection. The injected cleaner fish saw the marks on their bodies and tried to scrape off the dye with rocks.

The researchers also showed the fish photographs of themselves and photos of unfamiliar fish. Each cleaner wrasse acted aggressively toward a photo of a strange fish but not toward its own image.

The results suggest that a cleaner wrasse can create a mental image of its face and compare it to a reflection or photo. Researchers next want to see if other types of fish are also self-aware.

## Animal of the Week

### Pallas's cat



Pallas's cats, a rare wildcat species, have been found living on Mount Everest, the world's highest peak. Animal droppings were collected on a 2019 expedition, and scientists have now identified traces of at least two of the cats.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 8 to 9 years
- **HABITAT:** Dry, rocky grasslands in Central Asia
- **SIZE:** 20 to 24 inches long, 4 to 11 pounds
- **DIET:** Mountain weasels and small rodents
- **FUN FACT:** Most cats' eyes have slit-like pupils, but Pallas's cats have round pupils.

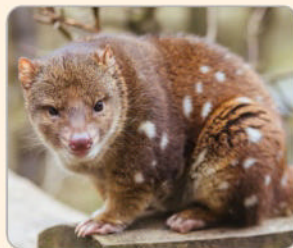


## Good week / Bad week



### Sheep in the shade

Sheep farmers in Australia say their flocks are thriving in fields with solar panels. Shade from the panels keeps the sheep cool and helps the grass grow lush, and the sheep eat weeds that could block sunlight from reaching the panels.



### Spotted-tail quolls

The population of spotted-tail quolls in north Queensland, Australia, has dropped from 500 animals about 25 years ago to 221 adults today. This means that the marsupials may be critically endangered (at high risk of no longer existing).



## "Are bearded dragons related to dinosaurs?"

Grace, 10, Michigan

### Troy Bumgardner

Tropical Discovery Keeper,  
Denver Zoo

They are not direct descendants but are closely related. Dinosaurs are more closely related to birds than to reptiles. However, there were prehistoric reptiles that lived alongside dinosaurs, such as the Brachyrhinodon. These were direct ancestors of the Tuatara, a lizard-like reptile in New Zealand.



A bearded dragon

Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). Find out more about Denver Zoo at [denverzoo.org](http://denverzoo.org).





## All about March Madness

# An exciting tradition

**An annual tournament has captivated sports fans for generations.**

Dominant dynasties and sensational Cinderella stories make the men's and women's NCAA basketball tournaments, kicking off this month, among the most thrilling US sporting events.

### History of the tournament

The NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) is the governing body for college sports. The first men's basketball tournament was held in 1939, spearheaded by Ohio State basketball coach Harold Olsen. Eight teams competed, and Oregon defeated Ohio State for the title. The first women's NCAA tournament was held in 1982. Thirty-two teams competed, and Louisiana Tech won the title.

### Choosing the teams

Today, 68 teams compete in both the men's and women's tournaments. The 32 teams that win their conference championship automatically qualify. The other 36 teams are awarded "at-large bids" by the NCAA Selection Committee, a group of college athletic directors and conference administrators. The teams are announced in a televised event on what's called Selection Sunday (March 12 this year).

### How the competition works

Four colleges compete in "play-in" games to make the official grid of teams (called a bracket). The remaining 64 teams are then split into four regions. The teams in each region are assigned seeds (ranks) from 1 to 16, with 1 being the highest. Higher-seeded teams play lower-seeded teams in single-elimination knockout rounds. The first two rounds determine who makes the Sweet 16. Those teams then compete to get into the Elite Eight, then the Final Four, and ultimately the national championship game for a chance to win the title and the trophy.



Harold Olsen



Oregon claimed the first-ever title.

**ALL WINS, NO LOSSES**  
The 1975-1976 Indiana Hoosiers was the last men's team to go undefeated for an entire season.

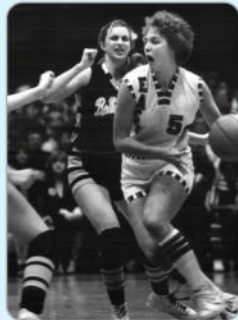


In 2022, Kansas won its first title in 14 years, defeating North Carolina.

### Shining moments

#### Lorri Bauman

In 1982, Drake University's Lorri Bauman scored the most points ever in a women's NCAA tournament game, with 50 points against Maryland.



#### Christian Laettner

In the 1992 Elite Eight, Christian Laettner of Duke University hit a buzzer beater against the University of Kentucky in overtime. Duke went on to win their second straight championship.





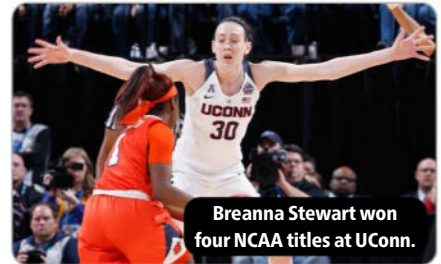


# in college basketball



**A GAME IS BORN**  
"Basket ball" was created in 1891 by James Naismith, using peach baskets and a soccer ball.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The term "March Madness" was first used by broadcaster Brent Musburger to describe the NCAA tournament in 1982.



**Breanna Stewart won four NCAA titles at UConn.**

## Major programs

The University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) has won the most men's titles in NCAA tournament history, with 11. UCLA head coach John Wooden won 10 titles in 12 seasons from 1964 through 1975, with teams led by stars such as Bill Walton and Lew Alcindor (now Kareem Abdul-Jabbar). The University of Kentucky is second with eight national titles, four under coach Adolph Rupp. The University of North Carolina, where Michael Jordan played, is third, with six titles. Geno Auriemma has led the University of Connecticut to the most women's titles, with 11. The University of Tennessee has the second-most, with eight wins under legendary coach Pat Summitt. Baylor and Stanford universities are tied for third, with three each.



**Aliyah Boston with the 2022 trophy**

## Get set for action

Once the tournament teams are announced on Selection Sunday, millions of people in the US fill out brackets to predict the winner of every game. Then the games begin at venues across the country. The men's tournament starts on March 14 and finishes on April 3, and the women will play from March 15 to April 2. The University of South Carolina—last year's women's champions, led by 2022 National Player of the Year Aliyah Boston—are heavy favorites to repeat this year. In the men's tournament, the University of Houston, Purdue University, and last year's champion the University of Kansas are expected to be number one seeds.

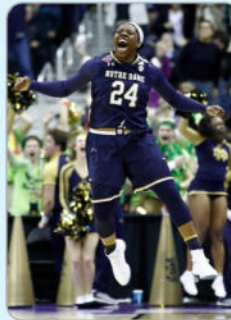
## University of Maryland Baltimore County

UMBC made history in 2018 when they became the first 16 seed to defeat a 1 seed in the tournament. In a stunning upset, they beat Virginia, 74–54.



## Arike Ogunbowale

In the 2018 Women's Final Four, Notre Dame's Arike Ogunbowale hit back-to-back last minute three-point shots in the tournament semifinal and again in the national title game.







## Prehistoric penguin was largest to exist

Millions of years ago, giant penguins that weighed as much as modern gorillas lived along the coast of New Zealand. Paleontologists (scientists who study the past through fossils) who discovered the species named it *Kumimanu fordycei*, or “monster bird.”

Bones of the flightless bird were found inside huge 57-million-year-old boulders that had cracked open on a beach in Otago, New Zealand. Scientists made 3D models of the *Kumimanu*’s humerus (flipper) bone and compared it to those of other prehistoric penguins and modern-day emperor penguins. This helped them estimate that the “monster bird” weighed 340 pounds and was about 5 feet 2 inches tall.

The paleontologists also found fossils of another previously unknown species, which they named *Petradyptes stonehousei*, or “rock diver.” It likely weighed 110 pounds. That makes it bigger than emperor penguins, the largest penguins alive today, which weigh up to 88 pounds.

*Kumimanu* most likely survived because it existed at a time when its predators were limited. About 65 million years ago, a meteor

hit Earth and killed off 75% of all living species. That included dinosaurs and most marine reptiles, which would have been *Kumimanu*’s predators. The ancestors of whales and seals were still living on land then, so they were also no threat to the swimming bird.

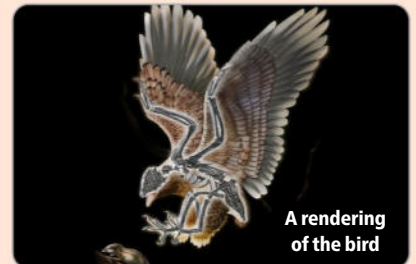
*Kumimanu*’s size also helped. Smaller penguins would have been at risk of being killed by a large bird. But “a 300-pound penguin is not going to worry about a seagull landing near it because it would just crush it,” Daniel Ksepka, a paleontologist at the Bruce Museum in Connecticut, told *The New York Times*.

The new discovery will give scientists greater insight into how penguins evolved (changed very slowly over time). Researchers think *Kumimanu*’s ancestors were most likely able to fly. As time passed and they lost that ability, their flippers grew longer and they became better swimmers. They also got heavier, which helped them stay warm and dive deeper than modern penguins. Scientists believe that the newly found *Kumimanu* is probably the largest prehistoric penguin that ever existed.



Modern emperor penguins

### A bird with a T. rex head



A rendering of the bird

Researchers in northeastern China have found a fossil of a 120-million-year-old bird whose head looks like a small *Tyrannosaurus rex*. Using scanners to create a 3D image of the previously unknown species, scientists found that several of its features were more like dinosaurs than like modern birds.

The dove-sized prehistoric bird, named *Craonavis zhui*, could not move its upper and lower jaws separately, the way modern birds can. It also had long big toes (metatarsals), which helped land-dwelling theropod (three-toed) dinosaurs run. The discovery shows that birds probably evolved from dinosaurs in a variety of ways and that different parts of their skeletons evolved independently.





## Curly hair protects people from the Sun

Researchers have found that tightly coiled curls are the best hair type to protect people's heads from the Sun.

Earlier studies have shown that humans evolved to have thick hair on the top of their heads to prevent them from overheating in sunshine. However, Tina Lasisi of Penn State University wanted to find out if different hair types provide a different kind of heat protection.

Lasisi and her team experimented by putting three different wigs on a thermal mannequin, which is a model of a human body with heat sensors in it. One wig had straight hair, one had hair with medium curls, and one had tightly coiled hair. The mannequin was put into a chamber where the researchers

could simulate (imitate) sunshine. The team measured how much heat the mannequin's head gained from 86° F sunshine without a wig and then with each of the three wigs.

The head stayed much cooler when it wore any wig. And the curlier the wig, the less heat the head gained. The study concluded that tightly coiled curly hair is most effective at keeping heads cool. The scientists think this is because the curls increase the gap between the skin and the hair's surface, so less heat reaches the scalp.

The study's results could explain why curly hair became common in early humans in Africa, since it would have helped people cope with the heat and strong sunshine.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The average person has about 100,000 strands of hair on their head.



Hair evolved to protect humans.



Microplastics pollute the ocean.

## Microplastics recycled into batteries

Scientists in South Korea have found a way to recycle microplastics and make batteries. Microplastics are tiny bits of plastic that are harmful to the environment. They often come from larger objects that break down into small pieces.

The scientists first determined how to remove microplastics from water. They connected a piece of iron foil to an electric circuit. That gave the iron a positive charge, which attracted the negatively charged

microplastics. The plastic became coated with iron and was drawn to a magnet in the water. The iron-coated bits were turned into powder, mixed with other materials, and used to make parts for lithium-ion batteries, which power laptops and phones.

Microplastic pollution in Earth's oceans is a huge problem that harms marine life. The team is hopeful that their work could one day help with removing microplastics from the ocean and putting them to good use.



## A car that can move like a crab

The Ioniq 5



South Korean automaker Hyundai has revealed a new technology called e-Corner, which lets a car move sideways like a crab. The new technology was introduced on a car called the Ioniq 5 at the 2023 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Nevada.

All four wheels can turn by as much as 90 degrees, which means the car can move sideways and diagonally. Hyundai says this will make cars easier to park and allow them to change direction faster. Cars with e-Corner technology could be for sale by 2025.





# Photos of the week

**DOG  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
AWARD  
FINALISTS**



## Sweet dreams

A puppy sleeps in this image by Daniela Schmid.



## Chin up

Su Kaye snapped this shot of a dog looking upward.



DALIA FIGUEROA; DANIELA SCHMID; FLEUR SCHOLTE; KARA KOCBEK; MICHAEL HURNIK; SU KAYE





## Go for it!

A dog makes a flying leap in this action shot by Kjara Kocbek.



## Winter fun

Michal Hurník took this picture of his dog Ricky.



## Take it easy

A canine lounges in lilacs in this photo by Fleur Scholte.



## Snowy day

Dalia Fichmann captured this image of a border collie.







**DID YOU KNOW?**

Major League Soccer launched in 1996 with 10 teams.



Charlotte FC vs. St. Louis City SC

## Sports crossover



National Basketball Association star Giannis Antetokounmpo and his brothers, who also play basketball, are now part owners of MLS club Nashville SC. "My father was a professional soccer player, and...I've always had the dream of owning a soccer team," Giannis said.

# Major League Soccer season kicks off

Major League Soccer (MLS) just completed its first full week of the 2023 season. The league expanded this year and welcomed a new club, St. Louis City SC. Now there are 29 MLS teams in all.

St. Louis got off to a great start by winning both of its first two matches. In the first one, they pulled off a shocking win on the road, coming from behind in the final minutes to defeat Austin FC, 3–2, on February 25. St. Louis defender Tim Parker, who had not scored since 2018, made the club's first-ever goal.

On March 4, St. Louis made their home debut in a sold-out match at their new stadium, Citypark, in St. Louis, Missouri. They beat Charlotte

FC, 3–1. The first goal at Citypark was made by Charlotte forward Enzo Copetti. For the second, Charlotte defender Bill Tuiloma accidentally headed the ball into his own team's net, tying the score at 1–1. Goals by St.

Louis players Eduard Löwen, a midfielder, and João Klauss, a striker, secured the win.

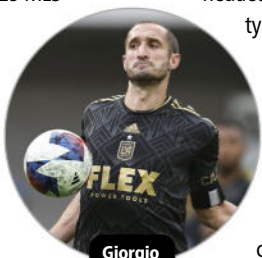
The same day, several other thrilling matches took place. In a tough one, the league's defending champions, Los Angeles FC (LAFC),

beat the Portland Timbers, 3–2. LAFC's new defender Giorgio Chiellini, a soccer star from Italy, scored his first career MLS goal to open the game. Although LAFC had a 3–0 lead in the second half, Portland refused to give up. They cut

the lead to 3–2 with just under 10 minutes to play but were unable to tie it up before time expired.

In Vancouver, Canada, the San Jose Earthquakes pulled off an exciting comeback victory to beat the Vancouver Whitecaps, 2–1. Vancouver scored their goal early in the first half and controlled play for the majority of the match. In the second half, however, San Jose turned up the pressure. Forward Jeremy Ebobisse tied the game, then defender Carlos Akapo came through with what would become the deciding goal with less than 15 minutes to play.

In other notable matches, Austin FC forward Maximiliano Urruti scored with less than five minutes left to beat CF Montreal, 1–0, and midfielder Lucas Zelarayan scored twice for the Columbus Crew in a 2–0 win over DC United.



Giorgio Chiellini

## THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

### SWIMMING

In a Pro Series meet on March 3, Summer McIntosh, age 16, of Canada beat US star Katie Ledecky by .83 seconds in the 200-meter freestyle. It was the first time since 2014 that Ledecky had lost a freestyle race that was 200 meters or longer in a US pool. McIntosh also set a World Junior record in that event. Earlier in the meet, she set a World Junior record in the 200-meter butterfly.



Jordan Stoltz

### SPEED SKATING

Jordan Stoltz, age 18, of the US, won three golds at the World Speed Skating Championships, which ended March 5. He is the youngest speed skater ever to win gold in the competition and the first male speed skater to win three individual golds at one championship.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

On March 4, the Philadelphia 76ers came back from a 19-point deficit to beat the Milwaukee Bucks, 133–130, and end their 16-game winning streak.





**FUN FACT**  
The world's first chairlifts for skiers debuted at the Sun Valley Resort in Ketchum, Idaho, in 1936.

American cross-country skier  
Jessie Diggins



## History made at skiing championships

Top snow sports athletes have been competing at world championship events across Europe. Several Americans, as well as one Canadian teen, have won medals and made history.

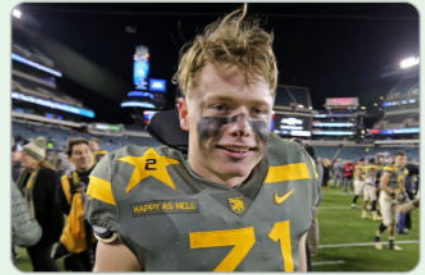
The Nordic World Ski Championships, held in Planica, Slovenia, from February 21 to March 5, featured ski jumping, cross-country skiing, and Nordic combined (jumping and cross-country) events. On February 28, Jessie Diggins became the first American cross-country skier to win an individual world title. She finished the 10-kilometer freestyle 14 seconds ahead of silver medalist Frida Karlsson of Sweden. The 6.25-mile race course took skiers up 1,263 feet, about the height of the Empire State Building.

The next day, Alexandria Loutitt, age 19, became Canada's first world champion in ski

jumping. She captured the gold with a final score that was more than 10 points ahead of silver medalist Maren Lundby of Norway. In one jump, Loutitt flew 136.5 meters, more than 3 meters further than any other skier in that round.

At the 2023 Freestyle Ski, Snowboard, and Freeski World Championships in Bakuriani, Georgia, one of the standouts was American Troy Podmilsak, age 18. He competes in freeski big air, which made its Olympic debut last year. The event involves skiing down a ramp, launching into the air, then doing several tricks. On March 4, Podmilsak became the first American to win a world title in the event. He was in second place after his first run but had an impressive second run that bumped him to the top of the leaderboard and helped him secure the gold.

## SPOTLIGHT ON...



### Leo Lowin

AGE: 21 SPORT: FOOTBALL  
TEAM: ARMY WEST POINT

**Early passion** I grew up in Texas, so football was a big thing. We'd always watched our high school team play. In second grade, I started to make the transition to tackle football.

**Sport appeal** I like the aspect of football that is putting it all out there and getting a chance to go full speed. I also like the relationships with teammates. It's amazing to try to work together for one goal: to win the game.

**Game day plan** A lot of guys like to go out on the field and warm up, but I like to stay in the locker room. I'll go in the hot tub, stretch, and envision making plays or things going a certain way.

**Tackling difficulties** Playing college sports and getting things done academically takes a toll. My second year was hard, but I ended up having a good season and did well in school. I was proud of that. No matter how hard times are, you've got to try to look for the positive light in things. It's an opportunity to get better or grow.

**Big victory** Winning the Army vs. Navy game this past season was pretty awesome.

**Next goals** I'm hoping to help lead the team to having a really, really good season next year and win the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy (a competition with Air Force and Navy teams). I'd like to keep playing football beyond college, if possible.

**His advice** There's always a lot to worry about and think about, but all you can do is deal with whatever you've got in the moment. Work hard and stay humble, and the rest will take care of itself.



## COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Erielle Tolentino**

Sport: **Tennis**

**"Coach Erielle has been my coach since 2021. She improved my game by making me practice backhands until I got it. She is very nice and kind. If you mess up a shot the first time, she gives you another try. She always plans fun drills at the start and end of every tennis class. I really like it when she drops into the match and rallies with us. This is why I think Coach Erielle is the best tennis coach of all time."** Kabir, 10, California



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.



**WOW!**  
The *Magic Flute* has been performed more than any other opera in the world—at least 18,500 times.



**Jack Wolfe, left,**  
in *The Magic Flute*

## Film mixes fantasy and opera

The opera *The Magic Flute* combines a modern-day story with one of composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's most popular works.

The opera *The Magic Flute* by composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart has inspired a new film of the same name. The movie, which mixes a modern story with opera, is in theaters now.

Mozart, who was Austrian, is one of the most famous classical music composers. He lived from 1756 to 1791 and created more than 600 musical works, including symphonies, operas, and choral music. *The Magic Flute* is about a prince and a bird-catcher who must rescue the daughter of the Queen of the Night. It features an aria

(vocal solo) sung by the queen that few singers can perform because of its high notes. Opera singer Sabine Devieille plays her in the film.

The main character in the movie is Tim, a new student at a school for Mozart. He is struggling to settle in, coping with his father's death, and questioning his talent when he finds a portal in a clock. It takes him to a land where he is Prince Tamino from *The Magic Flute*. Each night, he jumps back into that story's music-filled action.

Because a goal of the film is to introduce opera to a new audience, it

combines different genres. It is a drama about growing up, an opera, and a fantasy story. Jack Wolfe, who plays Tim, told *The Week Junior* he found it exciting to be "running away from imaginary snakes all while singing a really beloved Mozart score from hundreds of years ago."

One theme the film explores is escapism. Getting lost in opera, film, or theater "can distract us for a while and teach us important things," Wolfe said. He hopes the film inspires people to see *The Magic Flute* onstage. "Live theater and live opera are forms we really need to protect," he said. "A new generation of theatergoers and fans is the best way to keep it alive."



**Sabine Devieille**

### 3 facts about Mozart

#### Birthplace

Johann Chrysostom Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria. The city honors him with a music festival every year. *The Magic Flute* was filmed there.



**Salzburg, Austria**

#### Childhood

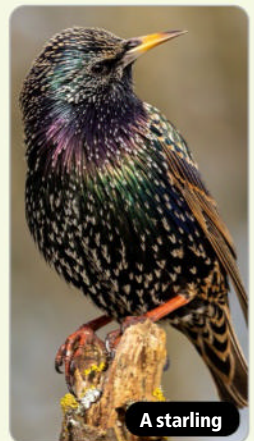
Mozart began playing music at the age of 3 and was composing pieces by the time he was 5. He composed his first opera, *Apollo et Hyacinthus*, when he was 11 years old. By age 13, he was a touring musician.



**Young Mozart**

#### Special pet

The composer was famous for having a pet starling. He discovered the bird in a pet shop in Vienna, Austria. It stood out because it was singing a tune from one of his piano compositions.



**A starling**





Shazam! Fury of the Gods

**MAJOR MOVIE**

The original 2019 *Shazam!* film made nearly \$366 million at the worldwide box office.

## Shazam! sequel heads to theaters

On March 17, the superhero movie *Shazam! Fury of the Gods* will arrive in movie theaters. It is a sequel to the 2019 hit *Shazam!* It continues the story of the DC comic book superhero as he learns more about himself and his powers. The film is rated PG-13.

Shazam's origin story is that he is a foster child named Billy Batson who was given special powers by a wizard-like being. When he says the magic word "shazam!" he turns into an adult superhero. At the end of *Shazam!*, Billy's five foster siblings get the same powers.

*Fury of the Gods* takes place three years later, with Billy and his siblings juggling teen life and secret superhero life. Trouble arises when three ancient goddess sisters come to Earth in search of a magical item. The fate of the world is threatened and the "Shazamily" has to stop them.

Among the film's stars are Zachary Levi as Shazam, Asher Angel as Billy, and Jack Dylan Grazer as Billy's brother and best friend, Freddy. Though the boys battle together as superheroes, they are also on separate journeys. "Billy is still going through an identity crisis," Angel told *The Week Junior*. "He is trying to figure out what his future holds." He also wants to focus on keeping his family together, whereas Freddy is focused on honing his own powers rather than being part of the group. "He gets reminded that we work best in teams," Grazer said.

Though *Fury of the Gods* may be an action film, Angel said it has "so much heart." Grazer added that the main thing that connects the kids is trust and love: "They found that in each other in the pursuit of fighting crime."



Asher Angel



## THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



### NHL Big City Green's Classic (ESPN) March 14 at 7 pm ET

This special will be the first-ever live, animated telecast of a National Hockey League (NHL) game. The players will be *Big City Greens* characters and animated NHL players. The action will follow a live game between the Washington Capitals and the New York Rangers.



### 7 Toughest Days (ABC.com) (Disney+)

In this three-episode series, adventurer Dwayne Fields visits some of Earth's most extreme, hostile environments, such as the rainforests of Gabon and the deserts of Oman. He has seven days to guide himself and his crew to safety as they face physical and mental challenges.



### The Voice (NBC)

The hit singing competition series is back for another season. This will be country star Blake Shelton's 23rd and final turn as a coach on the show. He'll be joined by returning coach Kelly Clarkson and newcomers Niall Horan and Chance the Rapper.



## READER RECOMMENDS



### Gravity Falls (Disney+, Disney Now, Hulu)

"This show follows twins Dipper and Mabel during their time in mysterious Gravity Falls, Oregon, with their Grunkle (great uncle) Stan. Dipper is shy but smart, while Mabel is energetic and social. When Dipper finds a journal in the woods with entries about odd happenings in the town, he and Mabel start a quest to uncover the mysteries and find the journal's author. They time travel, fight a dream demon, and more. The show has secret messages for you to find and decode. The characters are lovable, and every episode has something new, funny, and exciting." Abby, 11, Tennessee

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).





## On screen

**HELLO TO A HERO**

Superman made his first appearance in a comic book in 1938.



**DC's Justice League: Cosmic Chaos**

# Superheroes star in new game

**D**C's Justice League: Cosmic Chaos is a new action role-playing game. It is out now for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation platforms, and Xbox One.

Like DC's movie universe and comic books, Cosmic Chaos is all about big-name superheroes, big powers, and big battles. It is set in the town of Happy Harbor, where the base for the team of superheroes known as the Justice League is located. When the game begins, trickster villain Mister Mxyzptlk has arrived from the 5th Dimension. He is on a mission to turn Happy Harbor into his own kingdom. He has brought an army of goofy alien foot soldiers, who start causing all sorts of damage as soon as they arrive.

To take on Mxyzptlk, gamers play as Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman. They all hit the street at the same time,

and you can switch between characters instead of having to play as just one. The heroes make an excellent team because they have different powers and weapons. Wonder Woman carries her Lasso of Truth, Superman has heat vision, and Batman throws boomerang-like batarangs. The game also allows the heroes to harness "elemental" powers, such as fire, ice, and electricity. By collecting comic book pages in the game, you can unlock new costumes for the trio.

The three heroes are joined by other members of the Justice League, including the Flash, Green Lantern, and Cyborg. They aren't playable, but they are still helpful. In real life, meanwhile, you can team up with another person in co-op mode and feel like you're part of your own superhero team.



## WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

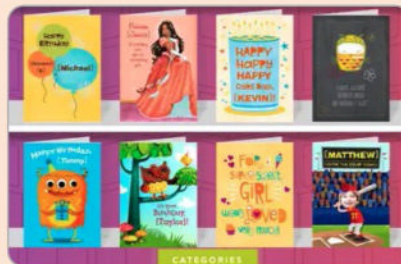
### REBRICKABLE

[rebrickable.com](http://rebrickable.com)

Reuse your old Lego bricks to make new creations through this free site. It offers official Lego set manuals as well as thousands of original builds called MOCs (My Own Creations) submitted by designers. You'll be able to learn how to build a custom medieval castle, a sports car, and more.



## APP OF THE WEEK



### CREATACARD

Apple App Store

If you need to send a thank you, celebrate a birthday, or honor another occasion, this app helps you design custom greeting cards on a smart device. You can illustrate a card from scratch or choose a pre-made design to color in. You can also upload photos and add a personal message.



## VIDEO OF THE WEEK

### IS THIS FOOD OR A DRAWING?

[tinyurl.com/TWJUS-FoodIllusion](https://tinyurl.com/TWJUS-FoodIllusion)

Play along with the funny hosts from the Good Mythical Morning channel as they take on an interesting challenge. They're shown clips of two foods side by side, such as hot dogs or cereals, and they have to decide which one is real and which is a lifelike drawing. The fakes are impressive.







OUR MARCH  
BOOK CLUB PICK

## Iceberg

By Jennifer A. Nielsen  
(Scholastic)

It's 1912 and the Titanic is setting sail from England to New York in this historical fiction story about 12-year-old Hazel. Without enough money to buy a ticket, Hazel sneaks on board. Her plan is to get to America so she can work in a factory and send back money to her family in England. While hiding in the part of the ship that holds cargo, she overhears crew members talking about a coal fire in the boiler room. She walks upstairs to a section of the ship for third-class passengers and meets a boy who helps her blend in with other passengers. Hazel, who dreams of becoming a journalist someday, begins asking questions about the construction and safety of the ship, which people had bragged was unsinkable. She takes notes and hopes to write a story in America. But before she gets there, her worst fears come true. Will she and the people she met make it off the ship? This story includes fascinating details about icebergs and how the fire on the ship made the Titanic less able to withstand the impact of an iceberg. There's also a mystery sub-plot that you may find entertaining.



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

Although the characters in *Iceberg* are fictional, many of the book's details are true. The fast-paced story lends itself to a discussion with others who have read the story. Here are some questions to get your book club conversation started.

**Would you have snuck onto the Titanic if you were Hazel?**

**What details about how the Titanic was constructed surprised you the most?**

**In your opinion, what was the most suspenseful part of the story?**

**What skills does Hazel have that would make her a good journalist?**

**If you could rewrite this book from another character's point of view, who would it be and why?**

**Were you satisfied with the book's ending?**



## WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away one signed copy of *Iceberg*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to [contests@theweekjunior.com](mailto:contests@theweekjunior.com) with *Iceberg* in the subject line. Enter by midnight on March 31. See [theweekjunior.com/terms](http://theweekjunior.com/terms) for complete rules.



### JOIN THE WEEK JUNIOR'S BOOK CLUB

Watch a special video Jennifer A. Nielsen created for *The Week Junior* and learn more about how our monthly book club works at [kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub](http://kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub).



## Ask the author



*The Week Junior* spoke to Jennifer A. Nielsen, author of *Iceberg*. A distant relative of Nielsen's was on board the Titanic and escaped on one of the lifeboats. The book is dedicated to him.

### Have you always been fascinated with the Titanic?

Yes. I was 8 or 9 years old when my mom told me about what happened.

### What did you learn while researching the book?

There was so much I didn't know! It blew my mind to find out about the coal fire on board. I also didn't realize there had been warnings that many icebergs were in the path of the Titanic. If one factor had been different, the entire history may have changed.

### How long ago did you start working on *Iceberg*?

I started about a year and half ago. I'm a fairly fast writer, but the editing and printing processes take time.

### Have you ever taken a cruise?

Yes—to the Caribbean and it was wonderful.

### Did you read a lot as a kid?

I had a library card and my mom believed in reading, which changed my life. *A Wrinkle in Time* was my favorite book.

### Smoothie or milkshake?

Chocolate milkshake.

### What's your best advice for kids?

There's no one in the universe who thinks the way you think, who sees the world exactly the way you see it. That means there's nobody in this universe who can write the idea you have. And if you don't write it, nobody else will because nobody else can.







## How to...



### DID YOU KNOW?

On average, people in the US spend a total of 2.5 days per year looking for misplaced items.

# Declutter your space

In a few simple steps, you can have your room organized.

Having a room with your belongings put away until you need them can make your space more enjoyable to be in. Spring is a time when people often deep-clean their homes, making now a good time to tidy up. If you share a bedroom with a sibling, perhaps you can sort through the clutter together. But just organizing your own area of the room can be rewarding. Here's how to get started.

### Consider the benefits

Think of decluttering as treating your belongings with respect. You want to enjoy the items you love without tripping over them or being unable to find them. Consider what you'll gain by tidying up. For example, rediscovering an old treasure you'd forgotten about would be exciting. Assess the areas where you could better store items, such as desk drawers, a closet, or plastic containers on a shelf. The goal is to have a dedicated space for everything so it will be easier to find items when you need them.

### Start small

You don't have to organize your room in one day. That could feel overwhelming. Instead, focus on one small area. This could be your nightstand where books have started to pile up. Or maybe it's a drawer that is stuffed with notebooks and photos. Once you've identified what to organize, start sorting what's there into three separate

piles: one for items you want to keep; another for items you want to donate; and one for things that need to be recycled or thrown away. You can return any "keep" items to the nightstand or shelf that belong there, or you may decide they belong somewhere else.

### Identify new organizing areas

After you've cleared out several spaces in your room, look through the "keep" items that still need to be organized.

Use baskets, boxes, jars, or other containers to store similar items together. Aim to put the containers on shelves or in drawers near where you typically use them. For example, hair accessories could be in a basket by a mirror. A jar on your desk could store art supplies, pens, and pencils. If you'd like, you can decorate your containers to personalize them.



Use boxes to store similar items.

### Sort through the rest

Ask an adult to help you go through your pile for donating and your pile for recycling and trash. They can help you decide how to

dispose of them. For example, you may have a neighbor or family friend with a child who is younger than you who might like to have the clothes, books, and toys you've outgrown. Or find out if there is a local house of worship or charity where you can drop off your donations. Many communities also have social media groups people use to give away items.

## 4 creative ways to clean up

Tidying up may be a chore, but you can make it more enjoyable with these ideas.

### Play what you love

Listening to music (or a podcast or book) is a great way to keep yourself entertained while you get busy organizing. You can enjoy what's being played while completing your task.



### Set a timer

How long do you think it will take to clean out that drawer?

How about the bookcase? Make a guess and set a timer to see if you can beat your prediction.



### Make it a game

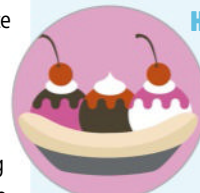
If you have siblings who are cleaning up with you, see who can complete certain fun tasks the fastest. For example, you can race to find out who can pick up all the blue toys in the room first.



### Have fun afterward

Check with an adult to see if you can do a favorite activity

after you finish cleaning your space. You could go out for ice cream or have some of your friends over—and enjoy hanging out in your newly decluttered room.







## KEEP A JOURNAL ABOUT GRATITUDE

A gratitude journal is a notebook for recording aspects of life that you're thankful for. Writing in one has been shown to help people feel happier and healthier. Here's how to begin.

- 1. Pick a journal.** You don't need a special journal to get started—any notebook will work. You can recycle one that's mostly unused by pulling out pages that have been written on. If you have a phone, you could use the Notes app.
- 2. Start writing.** Every day, write down one to three things you're grateful for. It could include people in your life, a fun activity you did that day, or even something you were excited to learn. Consider drawing pictures or adding photos to accompany your thoughts.
- 3. Reread often.** Every few weeks—or as often as you'd like—reread some of your previous entries. This can help spark fun and happy memories, which can boost your mood on days when you need it.



## Make shamrock lollipops

### What you need

- Baking sheet
- Parchment paper
- Lollipop sticks or wooden skewers
- Green apple Jolly Rancher hard candies
- Heavy-duty scissors or kitchen shears

### Instructions

1. Heat oven to 275° F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. If you're using wooden skewers instead of lollipop sticks, ask an adult to help you carefully use the scissors to snip off the pointy tips of the skewers and then cut each stick in half.
2. Place three of the hard candies (unwrapped) in an upside-down T shape on the baking sheet, leaving enough room to add a stick later. Place in the oven and bake for 3½ minutes. Remove carefully.
3. Allow the candy to cool for 30 seconds, or until it's cool enough to touch but not

harden. Add a stick under the center of the shamrock and carefully use your fingers to press the softened candy into a shamrock shape around and onto the stick. With scissors, make a small snip in the center of each of the shamrock's leaves to make it heart-shaped.

4. Place the baking sheet back in the oven for 2 minutes to melt and smooth out the pop. Remove from the oven and allow pop to cool on the baking sheet.

**Helpful hint:** You can make more than one lollipop at once, but since the candies melt and harden quickly, it's best to make no more than three at the same time.



## ECO TIP OF THE WEEK START A FAMILY "GO GREEN" FUND

Your family can help the planet by cutting back on resources like water, gas, and electricity. To help motivate parents and siblings, start a "go green" fund. Get together and review bills to see how much your household is spending on water, gas, and electricity. Aim to spend less by challenging everyone to use less. Ideas include setting timers for shorter showers, using the cold setting on the washing machine, and turning off the lights when leaving a room. When you get next month's bills, compare them to those from the same month last year and calculate how much you saved. Discuss putting some of that money toward something fun, like a special family outing.



Little changes can add up.





## Crisscross

Each of these things associated with basketball fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

### 4 letters

FAKE  
PASS  
TEAM

### 5 letters

BENCH  
BLOCK  
SHOOT

### 6 letters

ASSIST

### 7 letters

AIRBALL  
PLAYERS

### 8 letters

FADEAWAY

### 9 letters

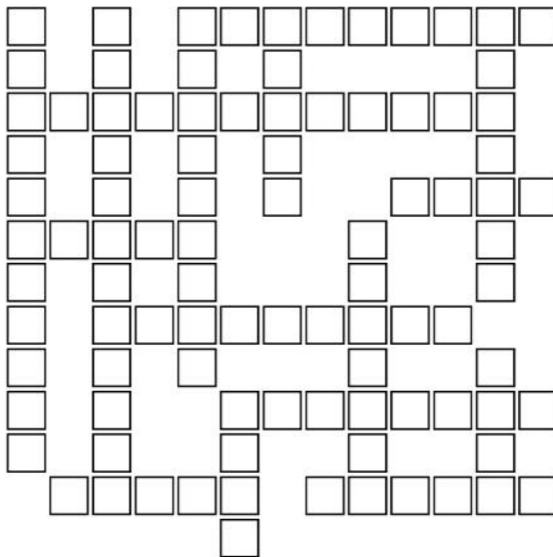
FAST BREAK  
FREE THROW  
LOOSE BALL

### 11 letters

OUT OF BOUNDS

### 12 letters

PERSONAL FOUL  
THREE-POINTER



## Take five

Five 5-letter words associated with hiking are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

T	L	E	I	A
V	O	I	D	P
C	R	S	E	S
S	I	O	M	L
W	T	A	T	B

## ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters E-A-R. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words?

1. Clothing you put on first when you get dressed

E A R

2. Practice for a school play

E A R

3. Creepy-crawly that comes out when it rains

E A R

4. Author of Hamlet and Romeo and Juliet

E A R

5. Memorize perfectly

E A R   E A R

ANSWERS  
CAN BE  
FOUND ON  
PAGE 29.

## SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

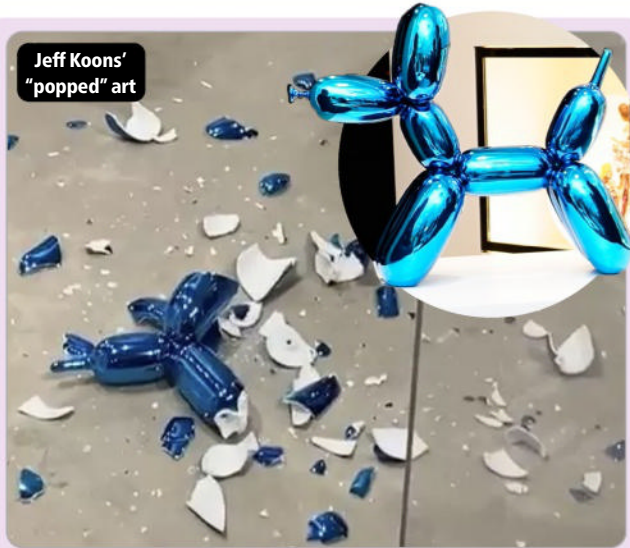
1			3		
	4			6	
		1			3
5			6		
	2			1	
		4			2

## Spot the difference

These two pictures of a dog having a bath appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?







Jeff Koons' "popped" art

## Art disaster turns into opportunity

At a Miami art event on February 16, a woman accidentally knocked over a sculpture by the well-known artist Jeff Koons. The blue porcelain figure, titled *Balloon Dog*, was worth \$42,000 before it shattered on the floor. The incident made headlines, however, and now art collectors are clamoring to buy the shards. "I find value in it even when it's broken," Stephen Gamson, a collector who expressed interest in buying a piece of the sculpture, told the *Miami Herald*. As for what he would do with it, he said, "There's a lot of options."

## Best Disneyland guest

Jeff Reitz has earned a world record for making the most trips to Disneyland in a row. The California man, who began visiting daily in 2012, logged 2,995 trips and became somewhat of a Disney celebrity before the Covid-19 pandemic stopped his streak in 2020. "I started having guests in the parks stop me for photos and autographs," he said. Now Reitz has a certificate from Guinness World Records, which he plans to bring along on his next visit.



Jeff Reitz with Pluto



## One very "smart" sale

When Kara Green received one of the first-ever iPhones as a gift in 2007, she preferred the phone she already had, so she left it sealed in its box. Last month, she sold the unopened iPhone at an auction for the shocking sum of \$63,356.40—more than 100 times its original price. Auction head Mark Montero said finding a sealed original iPhone is "truly remarkable."

Real or fake?



Did the plan get scrambled?

## Police bust an egg impostor

A man nearly ruined Easter for millions of people by trying to make and sell fake Cadbury Creme Eggs to the public. He got a job at a Cadbury factory and spent months studying how to make the creme-filled chocolate treats. Then he rented a warehouse and machinery and tried making the eggs himself. Unfortunately for him, neighbors noticed a strange smell and reported it to the police, who "foiled" his plan. Did they really crack this case, or are we telling an egg-stravagant lie?\*



Ralph high-tailed it out of town.

## Runaway dog's round-trip ticket

Ralph, a dog in the UK, gave his owner a scare when he ran off from his morning walk and made an unexpected trip to Manchester Airport. While his owner was distracted, the 3-year-old Cavapoo hopped into a taxi with a family who were on their way to the airport, 50 miles away. There was no phone number on the dog's collar, so the cab driver and passengers had to take Ralph with them or miss their flight. Ralph and his owner have since been reunited.

\*Fake! No one tried to make their own Cadbury Creme Eggs, but a man did steal 200,000 of the sweet treats in the UK. Police caught up to his truck on the road and arrested him. Luckily, the eggs were fine.





# Your turn

## Editor's note

I'm always curious about how our readers will vote in our Big Debate, but I'm especially eager to hear your thoughts on the topic in this week's issue (p8).

The question we're asking: Is writing by hand better than typing? We've outlined solid arguments on both sides. Are you persuaded by the research showing that writing by hand improves learning, memory, and focus? Or do you think speed, neatness, and ease of editing are more important? We invite you to consider these points and cast your vote at [kids.theweekjunior.com/polls](https://kids.theweekjunior.com/polls). (I'll be thinking about it too!) Each week thousands of children across the US participate in our poll, and the opinions you share are always interesting. If you have more to say on this topic or any other, write to me at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). I always appreciate hearing from you.

Andrea Barbalich  
Editor-in-Chief



## Celebrating a famous American

“We celebrated Benjamin Franklin's birthday at the library! My sister and I dressed up like him and narrated facts to the kids at story time. I told the group about some of my favorite contributions Benjamin Franklin made, including America's first library and post office. I told them how it's amazing that he invented the Franklin stove and bifocal glasses. I love that he wrote *Poor Richard's Almanac* and started *The Pennsylvania Gazette* to make sure people knew about the latest current events, just like *The Week Junior* does! I can't wait to celebrate his birthday again next year!”



Ben, 8, with Lila, 6, California

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).

**RIDDLE OF THE WEEK**  
What 6-letter word becomes 12 when you take away 1 letter?  
DOZENS

## CHARITY OF THE WEEK



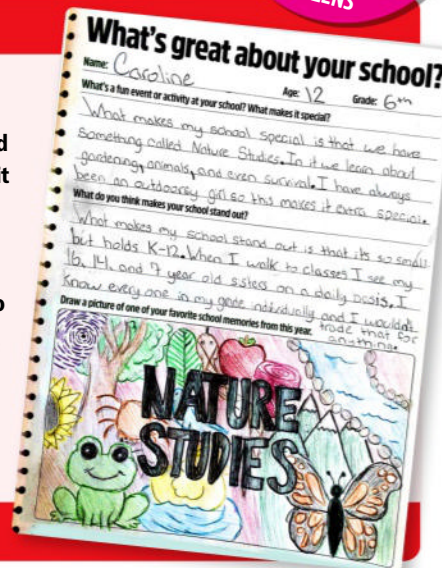
### SheJumps

This organization motivates young girls and women to explore the outdoors. It organizes adventure trips and camps for girls and their families and teaches them how to survive in the wild. It also offers scholarships and trains women in skills such as river navigation and mountaineering. Since its founding in 2007, the group has worked with more than 45,000 women. Find out more at [shejumps.org](https://shejumps.org).



## Tell us about your school!

Caroline, who is 12 years old and in 6th grade, told us that she believes her school is special because it offers lessons in nature studies. Students learn about gardening, animals, and survival. She also appreciates that her school is small. When she walks to class, she sees her siblings. If you want to share what's great about your school, go to [kids.theweekjunior.com/activities](https://kids.theweekjunior.com/activities) to print out a form. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). We'll feature some of the submissions on this page in future issues.



THE WEEK  
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).





## YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures of you in them! Have an adult email them to us at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com), along with anything you would like us to know about what you're doing in the photo.



"Among all these books, my favorite one is *The Week Junior*."

Michael, 10, Virginia

"We made the veggie miso fried rice recipe. It was scrumptious! My family, my dog, and I loved it."

Lucas, 10, Wisconsin



"I love *The Week Junior* so much. My favorite sections are That's Unbelievable and the Puzzles page!" Harper, 10, North Carolina



## Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Ms. Evans-Lora**

School: **Brooklyn Arbor Elementary School**

"Ms. Evans-Lora is a great teacher because she teaches everyone to be equitable and fair. She listens to us carefully about our questions and ideas. She also tries to learn different students' languages, like Japanese and Chinese. During class she makes jokes and tells us silly stories about herself. I am happy that I have a nice teacher because she makes us feel like we are part of a community."

Sena, 8, New York

**Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!**

**Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).**



## Puzzle answers (from page 26)

### Take five

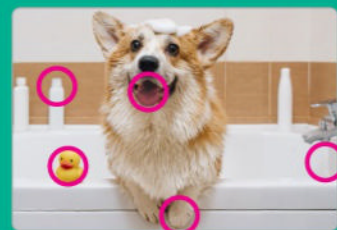
trail  
vista  
climb  
steep  
woods

### All the same

1. underwear  
2. rehearsal  
3. earthworm  
4. Shakespeare  
5. learn by heart

O P F A S T B R E A K  
U E R H I  
T H R E E P O I N T E R  
O S E O B  
F O T T T E A M  
B E N C H P L L  
O A R L L  
U L O O S E B A L L  
N F W Y P  
D O F A D E A W A Y  
S U A R S  
B L O C K A S S I S T  
E

1	5	6	3	2	4
2	4	3	1	6	5
4	6	1	2	5	3
5	3	2	6	4	1
3	2	5	4	1	6
6	1	4	5	3	2



### Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 c) 1987 2 True 3 UCLA 4 c) Mister Mxyzptlk 5 False. They are more patient.  
6 a) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 7 SpaceX 8 St. Louis City SC 9 True 10 Billy Batson  
11 b) Great Smoky Mountains 12 Fifth grade 13 False. She dreams of becoming a journalist.  
14 b) New Zealand 15 True

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.





# Quiz of the week

## How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 In what year was March officially declared Women's History Month?

a) 1978 b) 1980 c) 1987

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 True or false? Tightly coiled curly hair keeps people's heads coolest in the Sun.

True ☐ False ☐

3 Which basketball program has won the most Men's NCAA Tournament titles?

4 Who is the main villain in the new video game DC's Justice League: Cosmic Chaos?

a) The Joker b) Lex Luthor c) Mister Mxyzptik

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 True or false? Adolescent chimpanzees are less patient than human teenagers.

True ☐ False ☐

6 The movie *The Magic Flute* is inspired by an opera by what classical composer?

a) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
b) Franz Liszt c) Johannes Brahms

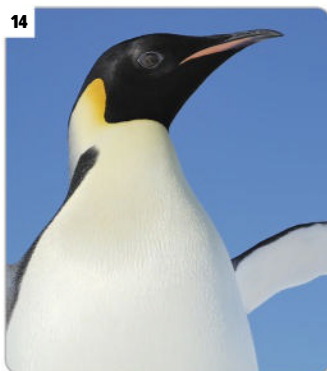
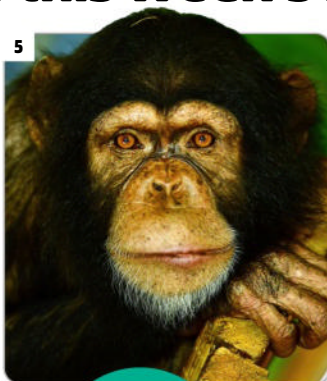
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

7 What private company launched astronauts to the International Space Station on March 2?

8 Which club became the 29th team in Major League Soccer this season?

a) Austin FC b) Charlotte FC c) St. Louis City SC

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐



9 True or false? Bluestreak cleaner wrasses, a type of fish, seem to be able to recognize their own reflections.

True ☐ False ☐

10 In the movie *Shazam!: Fury of the Gods*, what is the real name of the superhero known as Shazam?

11 Which was the most visited US national park in 2022?

a) Grand Canyon  
b) Great Smoky Mountains  
c) Zion

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 What grade was Raya Kenney in when she had the idea for a monument to women who worked during World War II?

13 True or false? In the book *Iceberg*, the main character, Hazel, dreams of becoming an actress.

True ☐ False ☐

14 Prehistoric penguins as large as gorillas once lived off the coast of which country?

a) Australia b) New Zealand  
c) South Africa

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 True or false? A man named Jeff Reitz made 2,995 visits in a row to Disneyland.

True ☐ False ☐

ANSWERS  
CAN BE  
FOUND ON  
PAGE 29.

## THE WEEK Junior

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# Pizza and Taco



## MEET THESE FOODY BESTIES!



Pizza and Taco are the best of friends.

Take the quiz below to find out who you are most similar to!

When you have free time, would you rather . . .

- A. Make up a cool best friend dance
- B. Spend time running around outside

When you go to the waterpark, would you rather . . .

- A. Slide down the waterslide facefirst, landing the perfect belly whopper!
- B. Cruise down the waterslide on your back, executing a flawless backsie!

It's time to throw a party! What would you do first?

- A. Prepare the punch! People will be thirsty at the party.
- B. Set up the banner and balloons!  
This party is going to look really cool.

It's time to make your own comic book!  
Which part are you most excited about?

- A. Coming up with the story!
- B. Drawing the art!

And lastly, you and your best friend just started a band! Which instrument would you want to play?

- A. I'll shred it on the guitar!
- B. I'll rock out on the drums!

If you chose mostly As . . .

You're Pizza! You're smart and creative and quick to think on your feet! You are loyal to your friends and would give them the pepperoni off your back!

If you chose mostly Bs . . .

You're Taco! You're optimistic and fun, and always try to make sure no one feels left out! You love to cook up wild ideas and are always upbeat.

## GET A TASTE OF THESE HILARIOUS GRAPHIC NOVELS— START THE SERIES TODAY!







**WATER  
MEETS LAND**

A river in Iceland flows into one of the country's many black sand beaches, formed from volcanic activity thousands of years ago.